

APCACH Newsletter N° 2 - June 21, 2008

Two/Three interesting events passed this week in Champéry:

1. Bourgeoisie voted to sell the Hotel National for CHF 4.3 Million to MdB in 2010, subject to certain conditions yet to be finalized.

In a meeting Tuesday evening at the Salle Paroissiale, attended by about 70 people (67 bourgeoisie), the vote was 40 for and 22 against, with a few blank or badly completed voting forms. Interesting that only 67 of the 336 Bourgeoisie attended (20%). Most/all attending were older and young people were conspicuous by their absence.

Before the vote several questions were raised asking : why was there not a public tender/Appelle d'offre ? what if an offer is received after the positive vote to sell for an amount greater than 4.3 million ? and others re why sell at all, etc. The answers were that since some years the National has slid into difficulties, so independent official valuations were obtained two years ago for CHF3.6 mill and actual offers were received for not more than 3.3 mill. Therefore, the Commune was now recommending the MdB offer, also that incorporating the Hotel National with the new hotel to be developed on the football ground (that will therefore leave the remaining four tennis courts for tennis) was integral with current / new planning.

Also interesting that the Hotel National was only acquired approximately 20 yrs ago by the Bourgeoisie as an investment ?, and it was a pension/hotel for groups before that. So there should not be too much sentiment attached to the changes. On the other hand – how many operating cafes and restaurants will be left in the old village ?

2. Under the banner « Charme et Authenticité » , Thursday evening 19 June, a nine point development plan for Champéry was introduced by Luc Fellay and Enrique Caballero consolidating into the recommendation to consider changing the way the evaluation, decision making and voting is effected in Champéry.

This called for the establishment of seven focused commissions to work on issues and with the Commune members responsible, to better achieve results involving the ideas of all citizens and more independently of political parties.

It sounds like a good suggestion and the powerpoint presentation will be supplied on the APCACH web-site for members to peruse shortly. Your committee and the above instigators will be available to answer question and to accept comments and ideas. Political motives are possibly behind this as with many things – be aware. There were about 40 people attending comprising mostly people in their late 30s –early 40s and many from the Forum of the previous weeks community interest meetings. Action and possible change in Champéry at last !

3. APCACH committee met Friday evening 20 June to discuss business and to plan.

Some changes were made to the committee and each member was given tasks to work on as we go forward. The minutes will follow on the web site. **The next meeting will be 18/19 July in Champéry. Any APCACH member in the village wishing to participate is welcome – call our president or secretary first to know the exact time and place.**